

LABOUR MARKET Snapshot



Ministry of
Advanced Education
and Labour Market
Development

JANUARY 2010

B.C. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

+0.5%
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
-0.2%

+0.2%
PARTICIPATION RATE

LABOUR FORCE

- At 8.1%, B.C.'s unemployment rate decreased between December and January. The unemployment rate one year ago was 1.8 percentage points lower at 6.3%. B.C.'s rate remains below the national rate (8.3%), which also experienced a small decline in January.
 - Total employment in B.C. increased by 12,000 jobs in January, boosting employment to approximately 2.28 million. This is 0.6%, or 13,300 more jobs, than one year ago. January's job gains were driven by an increase in part-time employment (+16,300), but were slightly offset by losses in full-time employment (-4,200).
 - In January, total unemployment in B.C. fell by 3,500, or 1.7%, reducing the number of unemployed to 200,700 people. Compared to January 2009, the total number of unemployed workers in B.C. has increased by 31.0% or 47,500 workers.
 - The number of unemployed youth (aged 15 to 24) fell for the third consecutive month (-1,100) to 51,300 in January. At the same time, the youth unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage points, to 13.5%.
 - In January, the 12-month average unemployment rate for very recent immigrants (five years or less) was 11.7% in the province, 4.1 percentage points higher than their Canadian-born counterparts and 3.9 percentage points higher than the 12-month average in the previous year.
 - Monthly unemployment rates increased in all B.C. Development Regions in January, with the exception of Northeast (-0.5%) and Cariboo (unchanged) regions. The Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenay regions experienced the largest gains in unemployment rates in January (+1.1% and +1.0% respectively). The Cariboo region continues to have the highest unemployment rate in B.C. at 12.0%.¹
 - Across the country, B.C.'s unemployment rate dropped one place to become the fifth lowest unemployment rate (8.1%) in Canada, behind Saskatchewan (4.7%), Manitoba (5.4%), Alberta (6.6%), and Quebec (8.0%). In January, most provinces experienced no change or a decline in unemployment rates, with the exception of New Brunswick (+0.4) and Nova Scotia (+0.2).

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS²

RETAIL AND
WHOLESALE TRADE
+3.8% (+14,100)

-2.0% (-5,300)
HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION
+2.5% (+4,800)

ACCOMMODATION,
FOOD AND BEVERAGE
+2.2% (+3,700)

-10.1% (-17,900)
PROFESSIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL SERVICES

MANUFACTURING
+0.6% (+1,000)

FORESTRY, FISHING
AND MINING³
+10.9% (+4,100)

- Over the last month, both the service producing sector (+2,000) and the goods producing sector (+10,000) experienced employment gains. However, in the service sector, large job losses were experienced in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-17,900) and Health and Social Services (-5,300) industries. Losses were offset by healthy gains in the Retail and Wholesale Trade (+14,100), Finance and Related (+4,100), and Education (+4,000) industries.
- In the goods sector, only the Utilities industry experienced a decrease in employment in January (-600 jobs). The Agriculture industry rebounded after two months of consecutive losses, to gain 600 jobs while the Construction industry also saw employment gains of 4,800 jobs.

IMMIGRATION⁴

- A significant number of Principal Applicants in the Provincial Nominee (PN) Class were Temporary Residents before immigrating to BC, and the majority of these were Temporary Foreign Workers. From 2004 to 2008, 78% of PN Class Principal Applicants had been Temporary Residents before immigrating, while in comparison only 24% of all immigrants had been Temporary Residents.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING⁵

- The median hourly wage rate reported in 2009 by former students of diploma, associate degree or certificate programs was approximately \$19 per hour, up \$1 per hour since 2008, and \$4 from 2005. The unemployment rate in 2009 for this group was 9.7%, up from 6.4% in 2008.

1 3 Month Moving Average, Actual.

2 Industry groups are ordered by employment totals (largest to smallest).

3 These groups are part of the Other Primary category in the Labour Force Survey (categories are: Forestry & Logging; Fishing, Hunting & Trapping; and Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction).

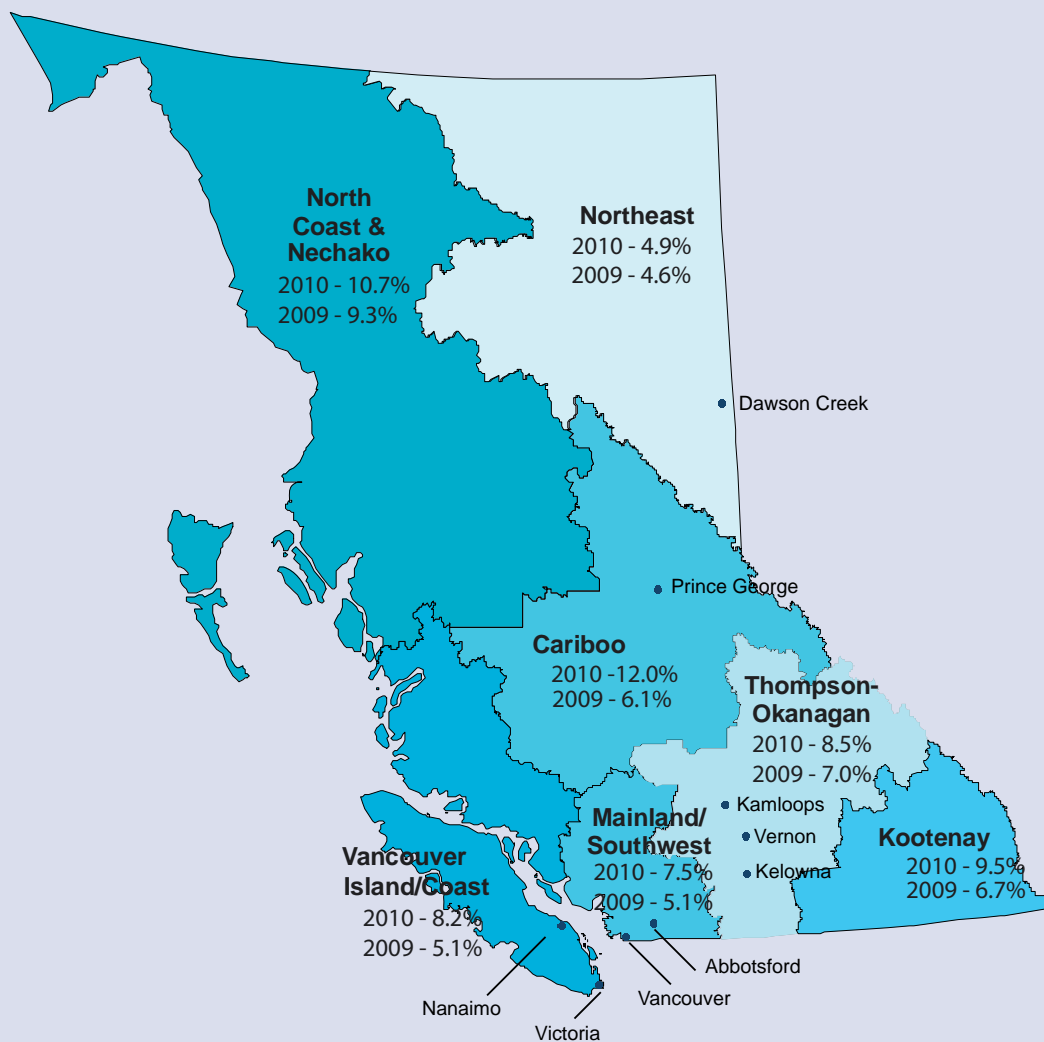
4 Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

5 Source: Student Outcomes Reporting System, BC Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey.

Note: All labour force statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. Data is seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated. As of January 2010, all seasonally adjusted estimates have been revised historically using a new seasonal adjustment method

Regional Highlights

(Unemployment Rates, 3 Month Moving Average, Actual)



City Centres¹

Abbotsford:	6.8% (↑)
Dawson Creek:	4.8% ² (↓)
Kamloops:	7.9% (↑)
Kelowna:	9.1% (↑)
Nanaimo:	8.6% (↓)
Prince George:	12.9% (↓)
Vancouver:	7.5% (↑)
Vernon:	4.4% ² (↓)
Victoria:	7.5% (↑)

¹ Compared to previous month

² Denotes derived number